



GALLATIN  
WATERSHED  
■ COUNCIL ■

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.gallatinwatershedcouncil.org](http://www.gallatinwatershedcouncil.org)

---



# OUR TEAM

**The Gallatin Watershed Council entered a new phase of organizational growth and opportunity in 2020.** New grant funds and increased community support enabled us to transition from a contractor to employee model, moving two of our previous contractors and our Big Sky Watershed Corps AmeriCorps member into staff positions. We were also able to move into a larger office space thanks to generous support from the Four Corners Foundation. These moves indicate GWC's potential and commitment to long-term sustainability and effectiveness in achieving our mission.

## STAFF

- Holly Hill**, Executive Director
- Lilly Deford**, Restoration Director
- Brooke Helstrom**, Program Coordinator
- Heather Priest**, Big Sky Watershed Corps



## BOARD

- Tom Michalek**, Board Chair
- John Nehring**, Board Vice Chair
- Tom Langmo**, Treasurer
- Peter Brown**, Board Member
- Jamie McEvoy**, Board Member
- Hannah Jaicks**, Board Member
- Jack Landers**, Board Member



## ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

# OUR VISION

---

**The Lower Gallatin Watershed is facing great change.**

Rapid growth, climate variability, drought, and impacts from land use and recreation all challenge our ability to preserve high quality river, riparian, and wetland systems as well as productive landscapes and the agricultural heritage of the Gallatin Valley.

Since our inception 16 years ago, GWC has served as a forum for communication and coordination of activities in the watershed. Our work is centered around consensus-building and finding common ground towards solutions that address the complex water challenges we face in our watershed.

All of our work has one purpose: serving an engaged community, whose daily actions are motivated by an understanding and caring for the Gallatin Watershed. We envision a healthy, dynamic, resilient water future with unified appreciation and stewardship for the ecosystems that sustain us all.

**Mission:** The Gallatin Watershed Council guides collaborative water stewardship in the Gallatin Valley for a healthy and productive landscape.

**Vision:** Our vision is unified stewardship of the Lower Gallatin Watershed to support rich ecosystems, bountiful fields, and vibrant communities.

## OUR GOALS

- **INCREASE** community **AWARENESS** of water concerns
- **INSPIRE** active watershed **STEWARDSHIP**
- **ADVANCE** collaborative water **PLANNING** efforts
- **STRENGTHEN** community **PARTNERSHIPS**
- **PRIORITIZE** locations for future **RESTORATION**
- **GUIDE** strategic watershed **ENHANCEMENT** projects





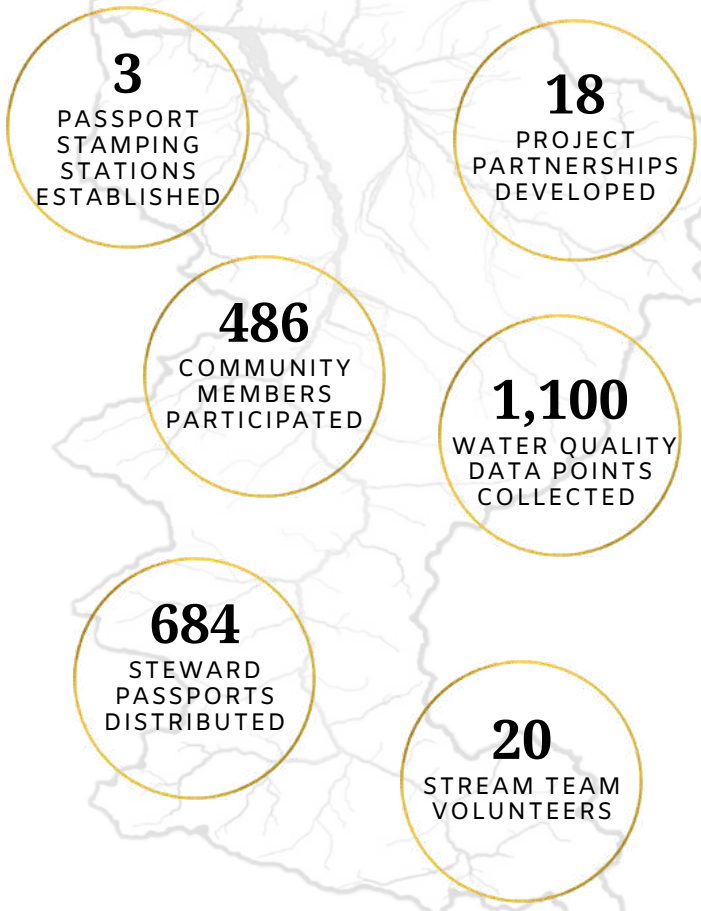
**GALLATIN  
WATERSHED  
STEWARDS**

GWC's newly launched **Gallatin Watershed Stewards** program incentivizes, challenges and inspires community members to make changes in their daily behaviors and to actively motivate their neighbors to care for our waterways.

**Steward Passports & Pledge:** Our Steward Passports are a fun, interactive way of completing stewardship activities in exchange for a stamp or sticker. Families are also encouraged to pledge to be good watershed stewards via our online [Steward Pledge](#).

**Watershed Stewards for Business** works to equip businesses with the information and tools needed to be better stewards of our watershed through a voluntary stewardship pledge and a donation/ incentive program.

**Gallatin Stream Teams** is a volunteer stream monitoring program operated in partnership with the Gallatin Local Water Quality District. Since 2008, citizen scientists have been testing water quality across the Lower Gallatin watershed to establish a long-term data set to assess the health of our rivers and streams.



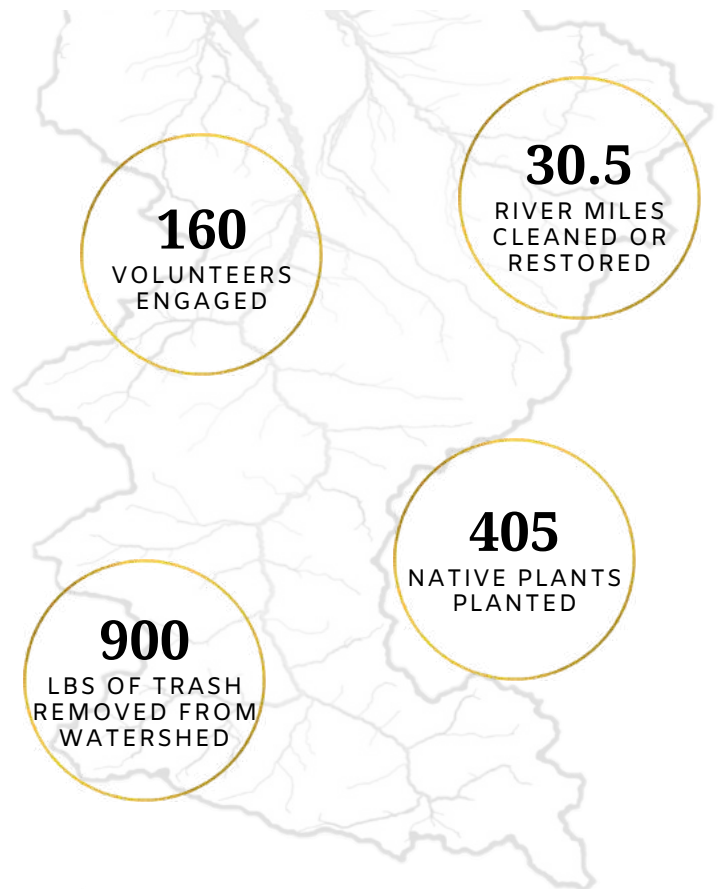
#MyGallatinWatershed

# WATERSHED RESTORATION

In 2014, GWC completed the **Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan**, a blueprint for stream restoration projects to improve water quality and remove streams from MTDEQ's List of Impaired Waters. Since then, GWC has brought coordination and financial assistance towards the completion of several restoration projects.

**Stream Restoration:** In 2020, GWC partnered with Antler & Fin Restoration, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, and a small acreage landowner to restore streambank along the East Gallatin River and enhance floodplain resilience.

**2020 River Cleanup:** Our 2020 Lower Gallatin River Cleanup had record numbers of volunteers, with over 110 community members participating, cleaning 13 sites in the greater Bozeman area and collecting a total of 900 pounds of trash! This equates to 20 river miles that are now clean and clear thanks to the hard work from our community.



#MyGallatinWatershed



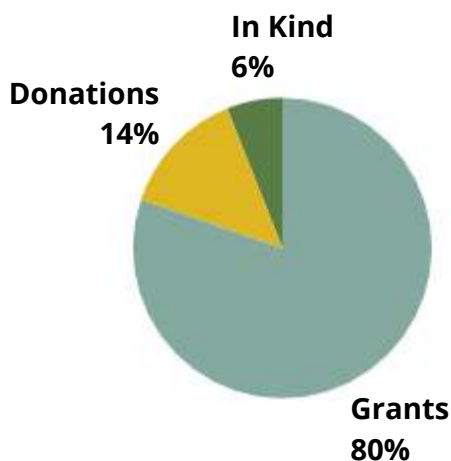
# WATERSHED PLANNING

**Collaborative Watershed Planning:** In early 2020, MTDEQ announced that the Lower Gallatin Watershed had been selected as their next focus watershed, which will commit up to \$500,000 per year for projects in our watershed beginning in 2023. Additionally, during the summer of 2020, GWC was awarded a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant to collect details about completed restoration projects and layer and analyze this information with relevant water data utilizing sophisticated database software to better understand baseline watershed health. In 2021 and 2022, GWC will utilize this data in tandem with stakeholder feedback and recommendations to update the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan and ensure that our watershed is prepared to most effectively utilize focus watershed funding once it becomes available.

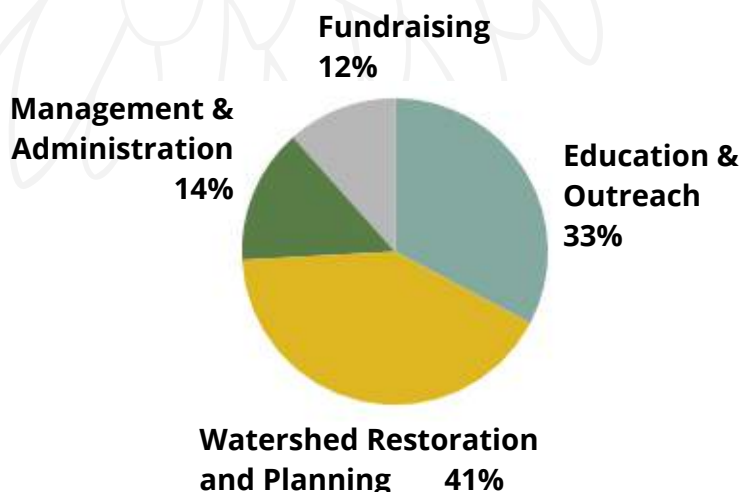


## OUR FINANCES

**2020 Revenue**  
**\$77,948**



**2020 Expenses**  
**\$68,922**



# OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our 2020 supporting partners



The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation



CONFLUENCE



Thank you to our 2020 community partners



MOUNTAIN TIME ARTS



THE ASSOCIATION OF GALLATIN AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATORS



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## **\$10,000 and Over**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Four Corners Foundation  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Watershed Coordination Council  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana

## **\$5000 - \$9999**

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

## **\$2500 - \$4999**

Bozeman Brewing Company  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Yellow Dog Community and Conservation Foundation

## **\$1000 - \$2499**

Fermentana, LLC  
Woodard and Curran Foundation

## **\$500-\$999**

Confluence Consulting  
Peter Brown and Sarah Fitzgerald

## **\$100 - \$499**

Adam Sigler  
Amanda Stefan  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Brenda Blazer  
Bryan Jaicks  
Erin McHenry  
Holly Hill  
Jamie McEvoy  
John Nehring  
Karen Helstrom  
Kathryn Kelly  
Keith Reed  
Lauren Haydon  
Leanne Roulson  
Madeline Pope

## **\$100 - \$499 (continued)**

Mark Story  
Padraic Stoy  
Pete McLane  
Pheasant Farms, LLC  
Rich McEldowney  
Robert Hill  
Timothy Kaczmarek  
Tom Langmo  
Tom Michalek

## **Under \$100**

Aarohi Mahableshwarkar  
Alec Humphries  
Alzada Roche  
Brooke Helstrom  
Christine Percy  
David Tucker  
Eliza Gillilan  
Elizabeth D'Imperio  
Georgia Wilhite  
Hannah Jaicks  
Heather Kjerstad  
Jack Landersr  
Jennifer Boyer  
Joe Hughes  
Jon Catton  
Jonathan Horwitz  
Jonathan Kempff  
Karin Boyd  
Lilly Deford  
Marlene Sadaj  
Michael Dixon  
Michael Smith  
Michelle Pond  
Sierra Harris  
Susan Higgins  
Wild Joes Coffee

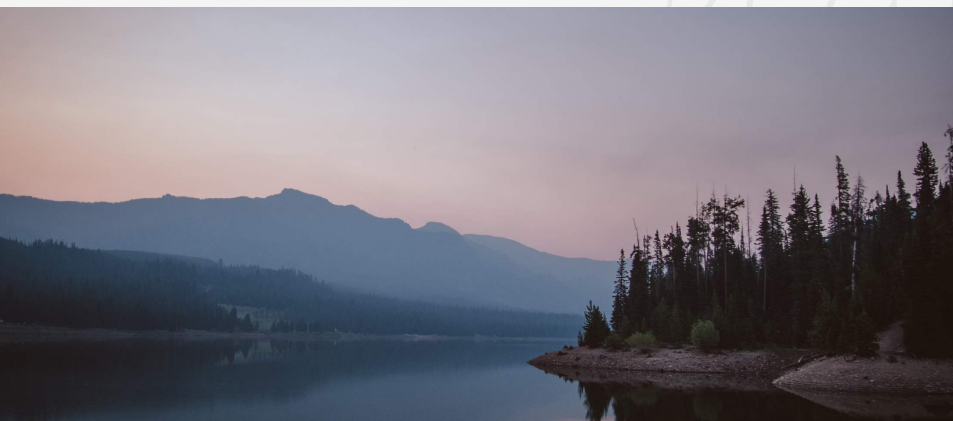


Our work would not  
be possible without  
the support of our  
generous donors.  
Thank you!





GALLATIN  
WATERSHED  
■ COUNCIL ■



Mailing address: P.O. Box 751  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Physical address: 1128 East Main St.  
Bozeman, MT 59715

[info@gallatinwatershedcouncil.org](mailto:info@gallatinwatershedcouncil.org)  
Phone: 406-560-4425

[www.gallatinwatershedcouncil.org](http://www.gallatinwatershedcouncil.org)